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Fraud in the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) of the German Weather Service (DWD)

The VASclimO dataset of the GPCC is not interpolated by Kriging nor is it based on an older version of the GPCC long-term climatology. It is neither produced by means of the GPCC nor on behalf of the GPCC. This is in clear contrast to statements repeatedly published by the GPCC for several years now.

London, 17 March 2011

To the authors of IPCC AR5 WGI Chapter 2

Dear All,

As a coauthor of the IPCC AR4 I feel the need to inform you about scientific fraud committed by the GPCC of the DWD.

In „Global Precipitation Analysis Products of the GPCC“ (2010) the authors (U. Schneider, A Becker, A. Meyer-Christoffer, M. Ziese, and B. Rudolf) write „..... for VASclimO dataset V1.1 using Kriging interpolation and an older climatology version.“ (see <http://gpcc.dwd.de> and follow link to News) This statement is deliberately wrong.

I produced this dataset on the basis of about 5000 station records which I got from the GPCC. Since the GPCC refused to share their “older climatology version“ with me, I used the long-term means provided by FAO – knowing that they were not quality controlled and in many cases do not cover long periods.

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I produced this dataset on my private computers since the head of the GPCC (Dr. Bruno Rudolf) refused to allow the installation of any programming language on my office desktop or more than 100Mb disk space on the large-capacity computer of the DWD. He was fully informed and aware that this measure made it impossible for me to produce such a dataset by means of the GPCC.

I used a newly developed locally adapting version of Gandin's method for interpolation, calculating the spatial correlation on the basis of many more but shorter time series than finally are used for interpolation itself. This approach takes the local variability into account and automatically decreases the correlation length of stations with records which are not in line with their neighbors.

According to my contract with the DWD I had to follow Dr. Bruno Rudolf's order to put massive spatial inhomogeneity into this dataset by afterwards adding 3300 German and 1000 French records so that the global coverage became 9300 stations. I made clear that I cannot take responsibility for this activity (more than 46% of the stations within 0.7% of the global land area) and only kept to the contract since Dr. Bruno Rudolf confirmed to take full responsibility for his orders himself - and I quit as soon as possible afterwards.

On 24 June 2006 I informed the head of the GPCC at that time (Tobias Fuchs) about the wrong statements by the GPCC and handed proof to him. Nevertheless, he presented 3 massively wrong statements at the EGU general assembly 2009.

I read the VASClimO final report weeks before its publication (in 2007), informed the authors again about the wrong statements and offered help for rewriting the crucial parts. This offer was declined by the project lead (Prof. Schönwiese) and my name was put on the authors list against my massive protest.

I informed several people within the DWD about the fraud in good time. The division director Volker Vendt Schmit (2003), division director Dr. Helene Bartels (2005), the member of the board Dr. Winfried Thommes (2007) and the president of the DWD Wolfgang Kusch (2007) refused to face proof that my statements are true. Finally the president of the DWD (Wolfgang Kusch) sued me in 2009 in the name of the Federal Republic of Germany for being offensive. Based on massively wrong testimony by Dr. Bruno Rudolf he provided a bunch of wrong information to the county court Bonn. The court, however, explicitly allowed me to publicly inform about wrong information published by the DWD.

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I informed the new president of the DWD (Prof. G. Adrian) and offered to provide the proof of my statements also to him. Instead of accepting this offer he replied in Sept. 2010 in a short letter that my statements are wrong.

In Nov. 2010, I informed the new head of the GPCC (Dr. Andreas Becker) about the wrong information that the GPCC repeatedly published for years. I offered to talk to him and provide proof. In December 2010 he coauthored the newest publication of the GPCC that repeats the wrong statements.

In Rudolf et al. (MetZ, 1992) the GPCC stated that Shepard's method (the only one used so far by GPCC, installed there by Dr. David Legates) deliberately extrapolates out of the range of observations in order to estimate unobserved maxima and minima. This proves that the GPCC has a long tradition in publishing wrong information.

A product which should be the successor of the VASClimO product is announced by the GPCC for years. Now the GPCC also published that they plan to get it through a peer review and get it into the next IPCC report. And again they state that this product will be interpolated by means of ordinary kriging. This is the reason why I write to you today in order to inform you about the fraudulent and unethical behavior of the people responsible for the GPCC.

Given my experience, there is much more I could say about the GPCC and the quality of their products. So please do not hesitate to contact me in case you doubt what I say or want further information and proof. I will also be available on this year's EGU Tuesday to Friday. Just drop me a line at j.grieser@rmx.de

In order to avoid prosecution, however, I cannot publish classified information, regardless how useful it might be to stop GPCC from further publishing wrong statements.

Sincerely yours,

Jürgen Grieser.